

May 2005 Update
Irrigated Lands Conditional
Waiver Program
Technical Issues Committee
(TIC)

TIC Goal

Monitoring programs use standardized procedures to ensure that data are scientifically sound and defensible when characterizing agricultural discharges and their impact on water quality.

TIC Objective

To provide the coalition groups, growers, agencies and other interested parties a forum to discuss and provide technical input that is necessary to resolve technical issues pertaining to implementation of monitoring and reporting activities required under the Program.

TIC Focus Groups

- Toxicity and Triggers
- Sample Container
- Bioassessment
- Sediment Toxicity
- Nutrients

Toxicity and Triggers

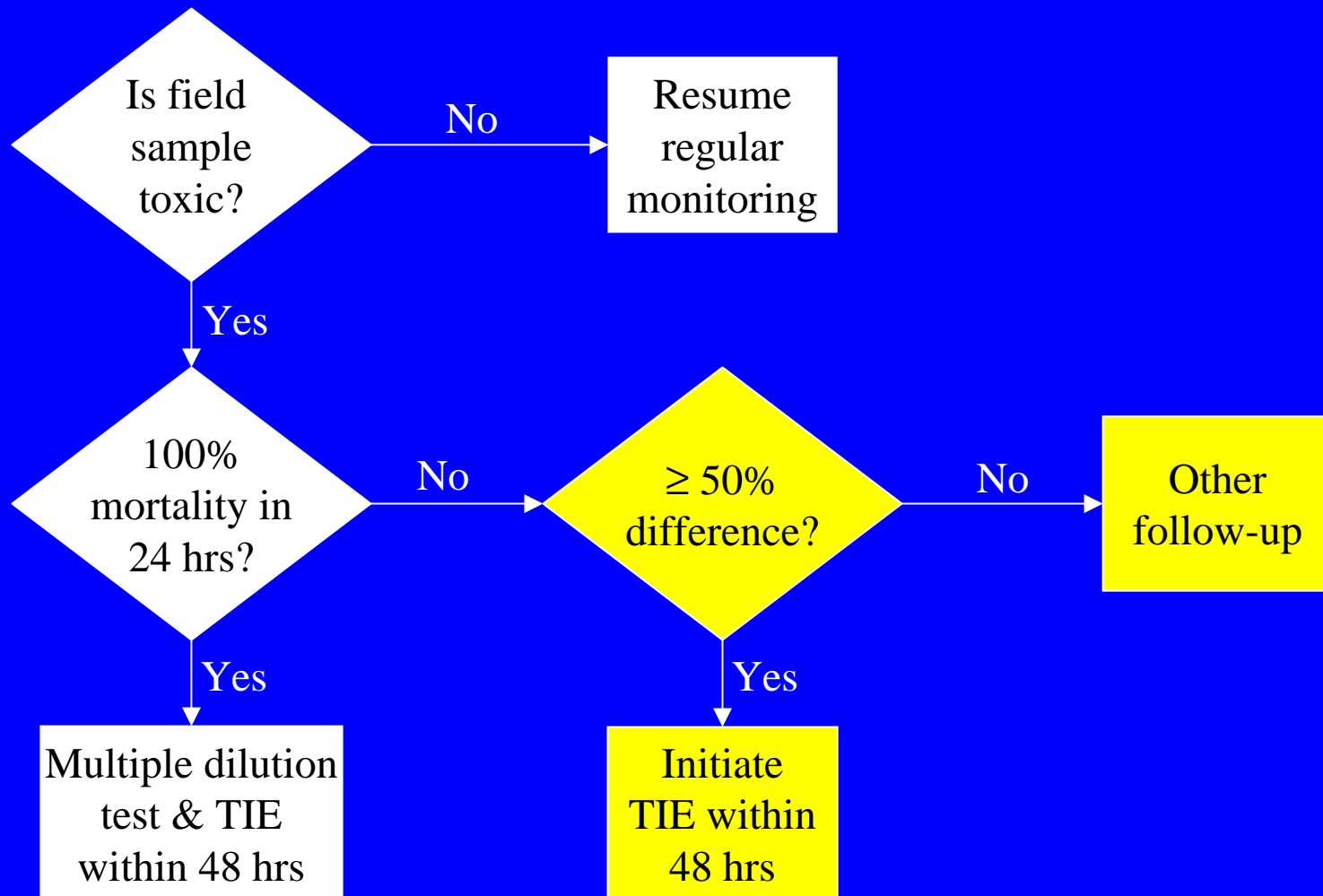
TRIGGER FOR CONDUCTING TOXICITY IDENTIFICATION EVALUATION (TIE)

- Toxicity = Statistically Significant
- Greater toxicity increases probability of TIE success
- Trigger = Toxicity level that provides reasonable expectation of successful TIE

Recommended TIE Trigger

- $\geq 50\%$ difference between the field sample and the control
- Applies to *Ceriodaphnia*, fathead minnow, and algae toxicity tests
- Is not the definition of toxicity

Toxicity Decision Tree



Outstanding Issues for Toxicity Focus Group

- Persistence of toxicity
- When to initiate other follow-up measures

Sample Container Focus Group

- Consideration of a study to use an alternative to liter amber bottles for toxicity
- Not being pursued at this time due to lack of funding

Bioassessment Focus Group

- Topic of April 2005 TIC Meeting
- Presentation by Jim Harrington of Fish and Game on utilization of bioassessment for agriculture land use
- Direction is to search for existing studies that correlate with chemistry and toxicity
- Earliest recommendations could come in May 2006

Sediment Toxicity Focus Group

- Two telemeetings to identify issues
- Will recommend utilizing only the mortality endpoint of sediment toxicity test
- Will consider frequency/trigger for chemistry testing
- Concern regarding laboratories that are competent in soil pesticides analysis
- Will develop recommendations for sediment TIE

Nutrients Focus Group

- Need for group identified at May 2005 TIC meeting
- First meeting needs to be scheduled
- Will identify and recommend nutrient analyses that are most useful for agriculture drainage concerns

Next Steps:

June Meeting to Focus on Sediment Toxicity

Future Discussions will include:

- Basin Plan Objectives, such as that of Toxicity
- QA/QC Round Robin Tests for Laboratories
- Artificial Data Workshops
- Identification of 'knowledge gaps' for additional study

Questions or Concerns?

Thank you for your patience

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